

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

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**Health and Wellness Forum Held in Sacramento****California Department of Developmental Services and  
Association of Regional Center Agencies Co-sponsor Two Day Event****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Sacramento--** The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) co-sponsored the *2000 Health and Wellness Forum* on April 25 and 26, 2000, at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento. The event was attended by more than 300 physical, dental and mental health professionals as well as other human services professionals.

Keynote speakers included Joan Petersilia, Ph.D. of the University of California, Irvine who presented information on emerging issues concerning crimes against persons with developmental disabilities. Karen Bodenhorn, of the California Center for Health Improvement (C.C.H.I.), presented a new web site which serves as a resource for health care providers who have patients with developmental disabilities.

The event showcased health and wellness projects conducted by California's 21 regional centers for persons with developmental disabilities. Regional centers have partnered with University of California medical schools, dental schools, and other professional organizations to focus on issues such as medication, aging, telemedicine, mental health, dental health, and professional training. Regional centers are private, non-profit agencies serving persons with developmental disabilities such as Autism, Down syndrome, Mental Retardation, Epilepsy, and similar conditions.

The UC Davis Medical Investigation of Neurodevelopmental Disorders (M.I.N.D.) Institute hosted a Pre-Forum event: *Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders*. Nationally recognized speakers presented information regarding current research and treatment methods.

For additional information, please refer to the conference program, which may be found on DDS' web site at [www.dds.ca.gov](http://www.dds.ca.gov). A complete list of the 1999-2000 wellness projects will also be found at this web site.

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**"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"**